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B O R O U G H O F H A R T L E P O O L .

Members of the Public Health, Housing and
Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, 1941 - 42.

Chairman - Councillor C. Chambers.
Deputy Chairman - Councillor J. Stevenson.
His Worship the Mayor (Councillor T. H. Pailor, J.P.)
Alderman - F. J. Carr.

Councillors - J. Beattie.
G. Davison.
E. S. Gardner.
F. Harrison.
T. T. Aird.
R. S. Boswell.
J. B. Graham.
W. M. Robertson.

Mrs. King.) Serving only
Mrs. Smith.) on the Maternity
Mrs. Lightfoot.) & Child Welfare
Mrs. Davison) Committee.

Health Department,
Frederic Street,
HARTLEPOOL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health,
Housing and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Hartlepool for the year 1942. The statistics show an increase in the birth rate and a decrease in the death rate, which are 18.9 and 15.9 per 1,000 respectively. Once again I have pleasure in recording that the Maternal death rate is nil but am most disturbed to note a very serious jump in Infant Mortality. Of the 40 deaths of infants under one year 14 were from Pneumonia, 11 from mal-development and prematurity and 7 from Convulsions. In the opinion of the local Doctors, Health Visitors and myself many of these deaths are due to expectant mothers working in Industry until shortly before the confinement and recommencing work too soon after the baby is born. Accordingly many mothers are not feeding their children and the infants are thus frequently left in care of their older brothers and sisters or with relations. This can also be seen in the dirty and verminous condition of many of the homes of children of school age.

During the year under review 347 cases of measles were notified. Pneumonia following measles was the cause of death in some cases. There was also an increase in the number of abnormalities at birth, such as Hydrocephalus, Spina-Bifida, etc. and an exceptional number of premature babies.

During the year 441 cases of Scabies and their contacts attended for treatment at the Health Department and First Aid Posts. It was not found necessary in any case to prosecute for non-attendance and the defaulter rate was negligible. Happily this epidemic has passed its peak; the number of new cases reporting for Scabies is steadily declining.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, in spite of the number of women employed in Industry, shows a satisfactory increase in the number of attendances over last year and the scheme for obtaining Home Helps for mothers with indifferent home conditions has at last got under way.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Committees for their co-operation and help during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. A. Rodgers.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer
and Medical Officer, Infant Welfare Centre:

J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat & Food Inspector:

G. A. WARD, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.
Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Miss F. Mitchell, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Miss E. L. Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
(resigned 28.2.42)
Mrs. H. J. Underwood, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
(commenced 1.3.42)
Mrs. D. Collins, S.R.N. (resigned 30.11.42)
Miss W. Pick, S.R.N. (commenced 1.12.42)

Dental Attendant:

Mrs. E. Kennedy.

Clerks:

Miss N. Little.
Miss I. Blenkin.
Mrs. E. Osbon.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	1,841
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	20,545
Rateable Value...	...	...	...	...	£68,979
Sum represented by 1d. rate..	...	...	...	...	£251.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	Males.	Females.	Total
1. Live Births - Legitimate..	136	139	275
Illegitimate..	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Total.....	137	144	281

Vital Statistics (contd).

Males. Females. Total.

Birth Rate - 18.9

2.	Still Births - Legitimate..	6	6	12
	Illegitimate..	-	-	-
	Total...	6	6	12.

Rate per 1,000 total births - 42.7

3.	Deaths	134	102	236
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Crude Death Rate - 15.9.

4. Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:

from Sepsis	.....	0
from other causes	.....	0

Rate per 1,000 total births - 0

5. Number of deaths of infants under one year - 40

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births - 142.3

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1932 - 1942.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mortality.</u>
1932	22.8	13.0	113.6
1933	20.8	15.0	93.6
1934	18.9	14.9	57.2
1935	18.8	16.3	86.8
1936	21.2	15.41	60.4
1937	19.5	14.14	67.4
1938	20.0	15.6	55.2
1939	18.5	14.5	75.0
1940	19.6	17.3	73.2
1941	17.08	16.74	68.0
1942	18.9	15.9	142.3

BIRTHS.

During the year the number of live births registered was 281, comprising 137 males and 144 females and of this number 1 male and 5 females were illegitimate. The birth rate shows an increase, the figure being 18.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with a rate of 17.08 in 1941.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths of residents belonging to the Borough, after making allowances for inward and outward transfers, was 134 males and 102 females, which gives a crude death rate of 15.9

The chief causes of death during the year were diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels - 52, Cancer - 36, Pneumonia - 25 and all forms of Tuberculosis - 14.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 40 as compared with 18 in 1941.

Infantile Mortality.

Disease.	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1 mth & under 3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	To tal
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1	4	6	1	2	14
Asthenia (Pyloric Stenosis)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Septicaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Convulsions	1	-	-	1	2	2	1	-	2	7
Prematurity (Maldevelopment & Inantation)	7	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
Op. for Intestinal obstruction.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Marasmus	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Congenital Valvular Disease of the Heart	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ectopia Vesica	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Asphyxia	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Jaundice	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Shock after op. for double Hernia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals...	10	2	1	1	14	8	11	2	5	40

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1942.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes ...	134	102
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	-
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-
Whooping Cough...	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-
Influenza ...	-	-
Tuberculosis of Resp. System ...	2	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	5	5
Syphilitic diseases ...	2	1
Measles ...	1	-
Ac: Polio-myel: & Polio-enceph: ...	-	-
Ac: Inf: Enceph: ...	-	-
Cancer of buc: vac: & oesoph: (M) uterus(F)	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	5	2

CAUSES OF DEATH (contd).

Cause of Death.	Males	Females.
Cancer of breast ...	1	1
Cancer of all other sites ...	12	12
Diabetes...	-	-
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	11	5
Heart Disease ...	20	25
Other dis: of circ. system...	6	1
Bronchitis.	11	3
Pneumonia.. ...	15	10
Other resp: dis: ...	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum...	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	2	2
Appendicitis ...	-	-
Other digve: diseases ...	5	1
Nephritis.. ...	2	1
Puer: & post-abort: sepsis...	-	-
Other maternal cases ...	-	-
Prem: birth ...	5	2
Con: mal: birth ing: infant: diseases	5	6
Suicide ...	1	-
Road traffic accidents ...	2	3
Other violent causes ...	15	11
All other causes ...	6	4

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

At the beginning of the Report a list is given showing all the officers connected with the Health Services in the Borough.

2. SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations in connection with infectious disease are carried out at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, by arrangement with the Durham County Hospital.

Water and other foodstuffs are sent to the County Analyst, Darlington, for analysis.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious cases - Infectious cases are removed by motor ambulance belonging to West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

The Town Ambulance, which has been serviced and maintained locally, has functioned splendidly. The Ambulance was called out 333 times in 1942 and the fees accrued amounted to £88. 16. 9d.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE BOROUGH.

The following table gives the number of notifications and removals to Hospital of cases of infectious disease; also the number of deaths.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	No. of Deaths.
Measles	347	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-

Infectious Disease (contd).

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths,
Diphtheria	5	5	-
Scarlet Fever	13	9	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	7	6	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-

AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Total	Under 1 yr.	1- 2-	2- 3-	3- 4-	4- 5-	5- 10-	10- 15-	15- 20-	20- 35-	35- 45-	45- 65 & over.
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	5	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	13	-	-	-	-	2	9	-	1	1	-	-
Enteric Fever (including para-typhoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	7	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	347	9	43	54	53	80	106	2	-	-	-	-

(c) Nursing in the Home.

(i) General - this is carried out by the Local District Nursing Association for the Borough.

(ii) Infectious Diseases - Cases of infectious diseases remaining at home are visited to see whether proper treatment and isolation is being carried out.

(iii) Tuberculosis - The Health Visitors visit all cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough under the County Council Scheme and, as the Medical Officer for the District is also the Medical Officer of Health, the closest co-operation exists.

The following table shows the new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis for the Borough of Hartlepool during 1942:-

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				TOTAL DEATHS..			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 yrs.	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2
15-25 yrs.	1	5	2	-	-	2	1	-
25-35 yrs.	-	3	-	2	-	-	1	3
35-45 yrs.	4	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-55 yrs.	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 yrs.	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9	11	4	3	2	2	4	5

	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936
Total New Cases.....	27	25	35	38	33	31	29
Total Deaths.....	13	24	19	14	23	18	17

27 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, which is an increase of 2 as compared with 1941. The total deaths were 13, which is a decrease of 11 as compared with 1941.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

During the latter part of the year arrangements were made for Maternity cases to enter the Maternity Ward at Hartlepoons Hospital. Financial aid was granted by the Local Authority in necessitous cases.

Cases requiring hospital treatment are also admitted through the Public Assistance Committee to Howbeck Hospital.

Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever cases are admitted to Howbeck Hospital and also to West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

ANTE-NATAL CLINCS.

These are held weekly at the Clinics at Frederic Street and West View. Ante-Natal and Post-Natal work is carried out by the patient's own Medical Attendant. The numbers attending for examination have shown a slight decrease in the past year but I understand from the Doctors that the total number of cases to be examined Ante-Natally and Post-Natally have not decreased, as many of the patients prefer to be examined in their own homes.

149 women attended during the year for Ante-Natal examination.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. The Borough is supplied with water by the Hartlepoons Gas and Water Company and the supply, though hard, is abundant and of good quality.

The following is a report of the Public Analyst on a sample of water sent for analysis:-

"I hereby certify that I have analysed the undermentioned sample of water marked:- Town Water Supply from tap in kitchen at the Clinic, Frederic Street, which I received from Mr. G. A. Ward, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Hartlepool, on the 12th. day of August, 1942 and that I find as follows:-

Parts per 100,000.

Chlorine as Chlorides	13.7000
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	.1162
Ammonia ... ..	.0037
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	.0033
Oxygen Absorption. ... ..	.0520
Injurious Metals..	None.
Total Solid Matter dried @ 100° C. ...	<u>85.0000</u>
Temporary Hardness 24.8 Degrees.	
Permanent Hardness <u>23.8</u> "	
Colour of sample on Hazen Scale	3
Appearance of sample in 2 foot tube ...	Not quite clear.
Odour when heated to 50° C... ..	<u>None.</u>

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 37°C. after 72 hours... ..	0 per. ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 20-22°C. after 72 hours	0 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37°C. after	
72 hours	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 44°C. ...	<u>Negative in 40 ml.</u>

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION.

Minute deposit from $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon consisting earthy matter (mainly rust from the mains), vegetable debris, some broken fungus growths and one or two micro-organisms.

OBSERVATIONS.

This sample is of a high order of organic purity, as judged both by the results of the chemical analysis and by the bacteriological examination, and it is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

(sgd) Cyril J. H. Stock.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of refuse is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. All the houses have covered bins and the ultimate disposal of the refuse is by tipping.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)	162
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. ...	470
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head.(1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932. ...	29
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose.. ...	36

Housing statistics (contd).

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head.) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	82
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:-	
... Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	78
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
A - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	-
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners	-
(b) By local authority in default of owners	-
B - Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	-
C - Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ..	-
D - Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	-
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... ..	-
4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-	
(a)(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year. ...	505
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.	505
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..	2,373
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year... ..	-
(c)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	-
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	-

Housing Statistics (contd).

- (d) Particulars of any such cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding (abated after informal action has been taken) -
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.. -

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 13 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year and of these 9 were admitted to Hospital, only those cases where satisfactory isolation could be maintained remained at home. All the cases were mild.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 5 cases of Diphtheria notified with no deaths. Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided free by the Authority and is always available. 5 cases were admitted to Hospital.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

From records obtainable it is found that up to December, 1936 41% of the school child population was immunised; to December, 1937 -55.4%; to December, 1938 - 61.2% and to December, 1939 -64.5%. From December, 1939 up to the present time 35% of the remaining children have been immunised, which gives a figure of approximately 65% of the school children in Hartlepool having been immunised, allowing for the fact that immunised school-leavers are being replaced yearly by non-immunised beginners. Since 1939 49.3% of the pre-school children have been immunised. Immunisation sessions are held twice a week at the two Clinics.

MEASLES.

347 cases of Measles were notified during the past year, with one death.

WHOOPING COUGH.

One case of whooping cough was notified with one death.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Once again there has been an increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis, but a reduction in the number of deaths. 27 new cases were notified during the year, as compared with 25 in 1941, with a total death rate of 13 as compared with 24 in 1941. Very little can be done to improve the position in Hartlepool as regards Tuberculosis until the new housing scheme is got under way and the gross overcrowding conditions are abated.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The following is the rate calculated per thousand births since 1936:-

1936	...	2.4
1937	...	-
1938	...	2.65
1939	...	-
1940	...	-
1941	...	-
1942	...	-

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Number of Legitimate Births	...	...	...	...	275
Number of Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 population..	...	...	...	...	18.9
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...
Legitimate.	...	...	...	...	39
Illegitimate.	...	...	...	...	1
					40

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - 142.3

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Years.	Hartlepool.	England & Wales.
1933	93.6	64
1934	67.2	59
1935	86.8	57
1936	60.4	59
1937	67.4	58
1938	55.2	63
1939	75.	50
1940	73.2	55
1941	68	Not available.
1942	142.3	Not available.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Work in the Child Welfare Clinics progressed satisfactorily, during the year the total number of attendances being 3,849 as compared with 2,421 in 1941.

The following tables show the amount of work done in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare work during the year:-

Total Attendances made during the year	...	...	...	3,849
1. By children under 1 year of age.	...	...	...	2,566
2. By children between the ages of 1 & 5 years.	...	...	...	1,283
Average number of children attending per session	...	...	...	76
Total number of children who made first attendances...	...	...	...	412
1. Children under 1 year of age	...	...	...	319
2. Children between the ages of 1 & 5 years	...	...	...	93
Number of children who received Artificial Sunlight treatment.	...	...	...
1. Children under 1 year of age	...	...	...	8
2. Children between the ages of 1 & 5 years	...	...	...	28

DEFECTS FOUND IN INFANTS ATTENDING CLINIC.

Diseases.			Number under 1 year.	Number over 1 year.
Conjunctivitis	...	...	-	-
Malnutrition	...	...	2	1
Otorrhoea	...	...	1	1
Rickets	...	...	-	1
Umbilical Hernia	...	...	4	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	1	-
Impetigo	...	...	1	4
Eczema	...	...	-	-
Scabies	...	...	3	3
Phimosis	...	...	2	2
Constipation	...	...	19	1
Enteritis	...	...	3	-
Bronchitis	...	...	1	6
Error in Feeding	...	...	10	2
Carious teeth	...	...	-	-
Debility	...	...	-	2
Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	-	-
Tongue-tied	...	...	-	1
Injury to arm	...	...	1	1
Flat feet	...	...	-	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	-	4
Burnt arm	...	...	-	1
Neavus	...	...	-	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	-	1
Chicken Pox	...	...	-	1
Spina Bifida	...	...	-	1
Convulsions	...	...	-	-

Number of visits paid during the year by all Health Visitors:-

(a) To expectant mothers	...	...	First Vists	16
			Total Visits	24
(b) To children under 1 year.	First Visits	292
			Total Visits	1194
(c) To children between 1 and 5 years			Total Visits	1693

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health and Housing Committee,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fifth Annual Report, being the third summary report in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, in respect of work carried out in my department for the year 1942.

As in 1941, the work of the department was still handicapped by not having the services of a full-time assistant though the services of the Port Health Inspector, in a part-time capacity, has been of great assistance.

Through the decreasing demand made on my time by civil defence duties and the absence of housing, attention has been given during the year to commencing a review of certain aspects of sanitation which, in peace time, had to be neglected on account of the pressure of other work. Various registers which the department is by law required to keep have been revised and some compiled for the first time. The sections so far reviewed have been principally those of dairymen and Food Preparing Premises. As a result of these inspections the proportion of premises that cannot be considered suitable is high but, on account of the prevailing conditions, remedial action is not of course practical and all that can be done is to note the existence of the premises until the time is more opportune. It is rather interesting to note that owing to congestion on the site, age, state of repair - or dis-repair - of a lot of the property it is very doubtful if many of the premises can be brought up to a suitable standard for registration or, if they could, the expense would in cases be unreasonable. Further, there is no doubt that many of the premises will be demolished under the Post war housing schemes, which will at least give the Council adequate control of the siting and construction of new premises as they are established.

With regard to the housing there is again nothing to report except that the passage of another year and further depredations of irresponsible persons have emphasized the warning I gave in my last report as to the derelict appearance that the town is rapidly assuming in certain districts. The most distressing feature of the problem is not so much that of the condemned property, awaiting demolition, but dwelling houses in other parts of the town which have become untenanted and, there being little chance of them being relet, have rapidly become dilapidated. To keep such property free from nuisance is becoming increasingly difficult with the shortage of labour, transport and materials making itself felt.

The Council's suggestion of engaging the services of a Town Planning Expert for a re-development plan for the old part of the town, which will be complementary to the existing Town Planning scheme for the new estate, has everything to commend it. Viewed retrospectively through the enforced war time pause, the pre-war tendency of treating each clearance over as a separate problem for redevelopment is not giving results desired. It may be argued that the expense of the preparation of such a scheme will be excessive but when it is considered that the new property to be provided will have a life of from 75 to 100 years, that initial mistakes in planning would be difficult and expensive to eradicate, if it were possible to eradicate them, then the cost per building spread over this period assumes a different aspect.

Closely allied with a plan of this nature are the major

questions of slum clearance and overcrowding, and to a minor degree execution of other sanitary improvements. For example statistics taken from the overcrowding survey of 1936 suggests that if all property in the town capable of being demolished under the Housing Act, 1936, were dealt with then there would be no overcrowding problem. This observation is of course subject to movements in the population since that date.

It follows, therefore, that the question of policy involved with regard to the slum clearance programme will have to be settled before this department can resume post war work in abeyance, for it will not be fair to owners to enforce legal standards to licensed premises and food preparing premises for instance, and then within a year or so demolish the property under slum clearance schemes.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. WARD.

Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING INSPECTION.

Inspections during the year numbered 957 and re-inspections 719 an increase on those of the previous year, whilst notices were served as below :-

Informal notices served	...	...	133
Informal notices complied with	...	...	115
Second notices sent	...	...	91
Statutory notices served	...	...	10
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	2
Nuisances abated without service of notice	...	...	7

With regard to property repairs though only essential repairs have been called for, so as to maintain houses weatherproof and free from major nuisances, difficulty is being experienced by owners in securing labour. Any further reduction in the number of building and allied tradesmen will mean prolonged delay in the execution of even essential repairs. As it is, the position is only reasonably satisfactory provided that extremes of weather do not occur with consequent widespread damage. Close liaison has been maintained with the builders in the town and urgent nuisances have consequently had prior attention.

No undue difficulty was experienced during the year with regard to materials but there were indications that manufactured cast iron articles, supplied on the quota system, were likely to be insufficient to meet the demands in the future.

Offensive Trades.

Routine inspections showed that generally speaking all premises were maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition. The license of one fish curing house lapsed as it had not been used during the proceeding 18 months. Informal action was taken in respect of the defective condition of the flooring in 2 cases and want of cleanliness in one. Formal action had to be taken, however, in respect of one offensive trade - that of a factory engaged on the manufacture of fish meal - owing to the accumulation of rubbish, lack of cleanliness, disrepair of certain essential parts of the plant and the disconnection of the water sprays from the condenser. As the terms of the Statutory Notice were not in all respects complied with, proceedings were instituted under Sec. 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to secure a nuisance order. The order was granted with

costs and by the end of the year the work was in hand.

LICENCED PREMISES.

No further action has been possible during the year with regard to the improvements and repairs found to be necessary, following the representation of the Licensing Magistrates, with the exception of one fully licensed house where all the sanitary accomodation was reconstructed on approved lines, so far as availability of materials would allow, and a ladies W.C. provided. The opportunity was taken to do this as the whole drainage system had to be reconstructed urgently.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The total number of meat and food inspections carried out during the year numbered 78 and 12 carcasses of pigs were examined.

The total weight of foodstuffs condemned during the year amounted to 1 ton 3 cwt. 7 stone 13 lbs., of which $16\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. was meat and fish, as against $18\frac{1}{2}$ stone for the previous year, of which 15 stone was fish. Excluding meat and fish the amount condemned during the year shows a considerable increase. The explanation would appear to be that it is not due to any deterioration in quality but rather that now most foodstuffs are rationed and everything is produced to the inspector so that it may be replaced or credit obtained for it if on 'points'. Of the total weight of canned foods condemned the regrettable feature was that in nearly every case the containers had been so badly damaged during transit that the contents were unsound; this was particularly so in the case of canned meats.

All food was surrendered and a copy of the surrender note supplied to the Food Office.

It is worth noting that even in the year 1942 several food retailers who reported bad food to the Food Office did not know of the existence of an Inspector of Foods.

Wherever possible all foods were salvaged in accordance with instructions and all meat, tinned or otherwise, was forwarded to the abattoirs at West Hartlepool for salvage.

Pigs slaughtered privately on licence from the Food Office were inspected at the time of slaughter and in each case the carcass was free from disease.

Food stocks were salvaged during the year from two shops, one after a fire, the proprietor being unable to undertake the work, and the other from bomb damaged premises, the proprietor and his family being killed. The whole of the salvaged stocks were taken over classified and examined. In both cases it was possible to dispose of the major part of the stock as fit for food and, with the permission of the Divisional Food Salvage Officer, this was done locally as the amount of food involved hardly justified the operation of the official salvage scheme.

Milk and Dairies.

The appropriate registers were revised during the year and 26 dairymen were registered for the first time, principally in respect of the retail of bottled milk.

A new dairy was provided by a retail purveyor of milk in the town, after service of an informal notice.

Application by a producer retailer of milk for registration

was deferred pending the provision of adequate dairy premises at the farm. The dairy of this and the adjoining farm was eventually provided by the owner and the necessary registration effected.

Food Preparing Premises.

Arising out of the decision of the Minister of Food prohibiting the manufacture and retail sale of ice-cream, the deferred application of two proprietors for registration of the premises in their occupation was refused on being reconsidered. In each case the manufacture of ice-cream was being carried on in the back yard of a dwelling house, without proper amenities and the original applications had been deferred owing to the difficulty of adapting other premises during the war.

The manufacture of fish cakes in unregistered and unsuitable premises was stopped, after the proprietor had been warned as to the consequences.

Informal remedial action was taken in respect of one dirty and verminous food shop.

As I have already indicated a survey was commenced of food preparing premises and, generally speaking, it was apparent that no proper provision exists for the cleansing, preparation and storage of the commodity produced; for instance, in practically all fried fish shops the fish and potatoes are cleansed and stored in the yard, the yard at the best being covered with a lean-to wooden roof, and in several cases the size of the yard is not a hundred square feet. The first essential of a wholesome food product is suitable facilities for its preparation and clean wholesome surroundings.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Owing to insufficient means of escape in case of fire in a four-storied factory in the town, an external staircase was fitted to the south end of the third floor of the factory, giving access, in an emergency, to an adjoining railway embankment and the necessary certificate issued under section 34 of the Act. Further, a fire-alarm system was provided to each floor of the Factory. The requirements were made after a joint inspection with the local Officer of the National Fire Service, as was subsequently recommended in a circular from the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Action in respect of one Factory with insufficient sanitary accommodation was postponed as adequate additional accommodation is being provided in extensions. One notice was served in respect of defective conveniences and had not been complied with at the end of the year.

CIVIL DEFENCE -

Prevention of Vermin Infestation.

Since the early days of the war routine monthly steam disinfection of all bedding in Civil Defence depots in the town has been carried out and, following complaints, the same principle has now been extended to all fireguard depots. Further, these facilities were in due course sought for by private works in the town in respect of their civil defence and fireguard organisations and it would appear, by the regularity with which they bring bedding for disinfection, to have obviated a lot of complaints arising from the verminous condition of the bedding. Practically all works schemes in the area now take advantage of the facilities available and, in respect of one company, the bedding is sent from a considerable distance for disinfection. A small charge, sufficient to meet the costs incurred, is made.

As and when necessary the fumigation of depots is also carried out.

Following two complaints, one in respect of body lice, two suspected persons were dealt with under powers provided in the Scabies Order and the family of one man, all found to be lice infested, directed into an Institution for cleansing.

Emergency Water Supplies.

Early in the year a provisional scheme was arrived at with the representatives of the Water Company with regard to arrangements in an emergency for the provision of wholesome drinking supply to the town of four static water tanks provide for public use and for hospitals, First Aid Posts, Emergency Feeding Centres, etc. Emergency water storage tanks have been provided to all appropriate centres and arrangements made for the routine changing of the water in all static tanks.

One set of emergency tanks proved unsatisfactory and had to be replaced.

Though dwelling houses in all parts of the town are well supplied with soft water cisterns, the contents of which can be used for domestic purposes, in all the older parts of the town facilities for storing water in the house are practically nil, there being no hot water system or baths

AIR RAID SHELTERS.

It is pleasing to note that during the year there was a considerable improvement in the condition of most classes of air raid shelters and particularly in respect of the communal or focal type of shelter where, since they have been fitted out with bunks and stores, interest has been taken in them and their condition by that section of the public allocated to use them. Informal action secured the remedying of 28 nuisances by the appropriate authority in respect of conditions found on inspection. 4 shelters found to be verminous were fumigated by this Department.

